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Amoxicillin for parvo.

Available in oral suspension.
Available in tablets 50 mg, 100 mg, 125 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, 250 mg, 400 mg, 500 mg, 875 mg

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND.
Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin, is portrayed in his London laboratory.
Thanks to work by Alexander Fleming (1881-1955), Howard Florey (1898-1968) and Ernst Chain (1906-1979), penicillin was first produced on a large scale for human use in 1943.
At that time, the development of a pill that could reliably **kill bacteria** was remarkable and many lives were saved during World War II because this medication was available.

But quickly, it became obvious that this new "wonder drug**" could bear improvement.**

For example:
Penicillin is not well absorbed from the intestinal tract meaning that at least 70% of an oral dose is wasted.

Penicillin is also a short-acting medication, with half of the amount circulating being removed from the body every half hour.

Not all bacteria have the type of cell wall which is susceptible to destruction by Penicillin.
(Bacteria are classified as Gram negative or Gram positive, depending on the cell wall characteristics.
Penicillin is able to punch holes through **the Gram positive cell** wall but is not very effective against the Gram negative cell wall.)

Staphylococci **(**an important group of bacteria) have developed an enzyme to break the Penicillin molecule apart and are thus rarely susceptible to Penicillin.
Amoxicillin represents a synthetic improvement upon "the original Penicillin" molecule.
Amoxicillin is better able to resist damage from stomach acid so less of an oral dose is wasted.
While it is still susceptible to destruction by Staphylococcal enzymes, it does have a much broader spectrum against the Gram negative cell wall and is able to last a bit longer.

USES OF THIS MEDICATION.
Amoxicillin is regarded as having a fairly broad spectrum against many bacteria
thus it is used both on organisms known to be sensitive to it plus it is a good selection when the sensitivity of bacteria is unknown.

It is especially helpful in **anaerobic infections** (those which grow without the benefit of oxygen).
Typical uses might include:
Infected bite wounds

Upper respiratory infections

Infected teeth

Bladder infections
It should be noted that Staphylococcal infections are NOT sensitive to this medication with two exceptions: *Staph* infections in the bladder are sensitive to amoxicillin simply because the kidney concentrates such a large amount of amoxicillin in the bladder.
Also *Staph* infections are sensitive to amoxicillin if Clavulanic acid is given to protect amoxicillin from the *Staph* enzymes.
Amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid combinations are marketed under the names **Clavamox** and **Augmentin**.
An exception would be Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococci* which have received a great deal of attention recently.
These bacteria have mutated and have less predictable sensitivity.

Methicillin-Resisant *Staphylococcus aureus* (also called "MRSA") is a human bacterium which can be transmitted to animals which can in turn re-transfer the bacteria to back to humans.
Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus pseudointermedius* (often called "MRSI") is a bacterium of pet species.
Culture may be required to choose an effective antibiotic against either of these strains.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER DRUGS
When the organism in a serious infection cannot be isolated, a common strategy is to attempt to "cover" for all possible bacteria.
Amoxicillin is frequently used in combination **with other antibiotics for this purpose**.

Clavulanic acid may be added to amoxicillin to increase amoxicillin's spectrum **against Staphylococcal bacteria.**
This medication is believed to synergize with members of the fluorquinolone class of antibiotics (enrofloxacin, orbifloxacin etc.)

SIDE EFFECTS.
Some individuals experience nausea with this medication. Giving the medication with food seems to reduce this effect.

SPECIAL CAUTIONS.
The oral suspension **should be refrigerated, though if it is mistakenly left out of the refrigerator for one day, this is not a problem.**
The oral suspension should be discarded after 2 weeks.
Amoxicillin may be given with or without food.
Amoxicillin will cross the placenta in a pregnant patient but **it is felt to be safe for use during pregnancy.**